

ORIGIN WHA-00

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ALL POSTS FOR PAO, USSOCOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, KPAO

SUBJECT: WHA GUIDANCE, NOVEMBER 7, 2003

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SUMMARY OF CONTENTS:

1. WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, NOV 7 (BRAZIL, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS)
2. INL PRESS GUIDANCE, NOV 7 (ANTI-NARCOTICS HELICOPTERS)
3. WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, NOV 6 (CANADA)

END SUMMARY.

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1. WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, NOVEMBER 7, 2003:

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-- BRAZIL: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER --

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE SECRETARY'S MEETING THIS AFTERNOON WITH BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AMORIM?

A: THE SECRETARY IS PLEASED TO MEET WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF BRAZIL, CELSO AMORIM (PRONOUNCED: "SELL-SOH" "AH-MOH-REEM").

U.S.-BRAZIL RELATIONS ARE BUILT ON A FOUNDATION OF SHARED VALUES AND MUTUAL RESPECT AND WE CONSIDER BRAZIL A KEY FRIEND AND PARTNER.

THE SECRETARY AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL DISCUSS A BROAD RANGE OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND TRADE ISSUES, AS WELL AS WAYS TO KEEP THE POSITIVE MOMENTUM ESTABLISHED BY THE JUNE 20 PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT MOVING FORWARD.

-- GUATEMALA: GUIDANCE ON FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS --

Q: WHAT DO WE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE GUATEMALAN ELECTIONS?

A: OUR POSITION ON THE GUATEMALAN ELECTIONS HAS NOT CHANGED. WE SUPPORT FREE, FAIR, TRANSPARENT AND CONSTITUTIONAL ELECTIONS. WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO WORK WITH, AND HAVE A FRIENDLY, NORMAL RELATIONSHIP WITH, WHOMEVER IS THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF GUATEMALA.

Q: ANY COMMENT ON THE CONTROVERSIAL ELECTION LAW RECENTLY PASSED BY THE GUATEMALAN CONGRESS, WHICH REQUIRED EMPLOYERS TO GIVE THEIR EMPLOYEES THREE DAYS OFF IN ORDER TO VOTE?

A: PRESIDENT PORTILLO VETOED THE NEW LAW ON NOVEMBER 5. THE U.S. EMBASSY IN GUATEMALA HAD PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY URGED HIM TO DO SO.

QUESTION: IS THE UNITED STATES PREPARED TO DEAL WITH EFRAIN RIOS MONTT AS PRESIDENT IF HE WINS THE ELECTION?

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A: THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES IN THIS MATTER IS CLEAR AND HAS NOT CHANGED. REALISTICALLY, IN LIGHT OF MR. RIOS MONTT'S BACKGROUND, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO HAVE THE RELATIONSHIP THAT WE WOULD IDEALLY PREFER.

-- HONDURAS: REQUEST FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDE HELICOPTERS TO COMBAT NARCOTICS --

KEY POINTS TO MAKE:

TO DATE, THE HONDURAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT FORMERLY REQUESTED ANTI-NARCOTICS HELICOPTERS.

THE HONDURAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS SOUGHT U.S. ARMY HELICOPTERS FROM THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT'S "EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES PROGRAM," WHICH TRANSFERS EXCESS U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

WE ARE NOT ABLE TO FULFILL THE HONDURAN GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST FOR HELICOPTERS BECAUSE OF THE COST INVOLVED. BUT WE ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTICS PROLIFERATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA; CONGRESS HAS ALLOTTED 2.75 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE REGION IN FISCAL YEAR 2003.

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2. INL PRESS GUIDANCE, NOVEMBER 7, 2003:  
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-- FACTS ON HELICOPTERS UNDER INL --

Q. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT INTEND TO PROVIDE HELICOPTERS TO HONDURAS TO HELP COMBAT DRUG TRAFFICKING? WHY OR WHY NOT?

KEY POINTS:

2.75 MILLION DOLLARS HAS BEEN PROVIDED FOR COUNTER NARCOTICS EFFORTS FOR ALL OF CENTRAL AMERICA, THEREFORE THE COUNTER NARCOTICS PROGRAM IN HONDURAS IS MODEST.

Q. WHAT COUNTRIES DOES THE U.S. PRESENTLY PROVIDE ANTI-NARCOTICS HELICOPTERS TO? HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

KEY POINTS:

THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS 108 HELICOPTERS DISPATCHED IN BOLIVIA, COLOMBIA, PAKISTAN AND PERU SUPPORTING COUNTER NARCOTICS EFFORTS.

THE TOTAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 AIR ASSETS WAS 235 MILLION DOLLARS.

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THE HELICOPTERS ARE USED TO PROVIDE AVIATION "LIFT" SUPPORT  
)- TRANSPORT TO AREAS THAT INACCESSIBLE BY GROUND -- FOR  
COUNTER NARCOTICS EFFORTS AND TO BOLSTER BORDER SECURITY.  
WE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING AIR ASSETS TO THE FOLLOWING

COUNTRIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003:

COLOMBIA:

62.26 MILLION DOLLARS IN AERIAL SUPPORT TO THE COLOMBIAN  
POLICE.

128.75 MILLION IN AERIAL SUPPORT TO THE COLOMBIAN ARMY.  
THERE ARE A TOTAL OF 72 HELICOPTERS IN COUNTRY AT THIS TIME.

PERU:

31.6 MILLION DOLLARS IN AERIAL SUPPORT TO THE PERUVIAN POLICE.  
THERE ARE A TOTAL OF 16 HELICOPTERS IN COUNTRY AT THIS TIME.

BOLIVIA:

8.864 MILLION DOLLARS IN AERIAL SUPPORT TO THE BOLIVIAN  
POLICE.

THERE ARE A TOTAL OF 15 HELICOPTERS IN COUNTRY AT THIS TIME.

PAKISTAN:

3.5 MILLION DOLLARS IN AERIAL SUPPORT TO THE PAKISTAN  
MINISTER OF INTERIOR TO BOLSTER EFFORTS ALONG THE  
PAKISTAN-AFGHANISTAN BORDER.

THERE ARE A TOTAL OF 5 HELICOPTERS IN COUNTRY AT THIS TIME.

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3. WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, NOVEMBER 6, 2003:  
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-- MAHER ARAR CASE --

KEY POINTS TO MAKE:

A: THE SECRETARY SPOKE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON WITH CANADIAN  
FOREIGN MINISTER WILLIAM GRAHAM. THEY DISCUSSED THE ARAR  
CASE AND THE SECRETARY AGREED TO SHARE ADDITIONAL DETAILS  
WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

WE REFER YOU TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA FOR ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION ON THIS MATTER.

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